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Statement of Jason Barbose, Environment California Global Warming Advocate, on the Schwarzenegger Administration's Blueprint for Cutting Global Warming Emissions

"The Schwarzenegger administration deserves a lot of credit for taking responsibility for the nation's first comprehensive plan to reduce pollution that causes global warming. In designing the scoping plan, the Air Resources Board is charting the course towards a sustainable future with cleaner air and more jobs in a growing green economy.

The plan's commitment to expanding proven policies for renewable energy, efficient buildings, and cleaner cars and fuels is exactly the right prescription to make sure we prevent the worst effects of global warming from ever taking place.

Clearly there is a lot at stake in the governor's plan. A lot has been answered in today's draft, but the administration has yet to be clear about whether they will reward big polluters with free pollution permits or level the playing field by requiring polluters to pay.

A fundamental problem with the status quo is that polluting pays too well, and if we want to solve global warming, then it can't. For example, the seven biggest oil companies with refineries in California netted \$134 billion of profit last year. Meanwhile, dirty sources of energy are costing Californians, from the prices we pay at the gas pump, to health care expenses from breathing dirty air, and the damage caused by global warming including increasing wildfires and depleted snow pack.

Any cap and trade program must require polluters to pay for their permits through an auction. The draft scoping plan supports the *concept* of requiring polluters to pay, but doesn't yet commit the state to auctioning 100 percent of permits from the start. California cannot afford to repeat the mistakes of the European Union, which handed out permits for free, creating windfall profits by some of the largest polluters.

Auctioning permits is a cleaner, cheaper and smarter approach. Auctioning permits treats all emitters equally, placing them on a level playing field and sending economic signals that encourage cleaner sources of energy. The governor's final scoping plan in October should require polluters to pay for their pollution, and then funnel that money into wind and solar power, greener buildings, and a cleaner transportation system while also protecting low-income consumers."

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Environment California is a nonprofit, nonpartisan citizen-based environmental advocacy organization dedicated to clean air, clean water and open space.